

The Spirit Publishing Company Presents

The

11

Most Interesting
Students
at SJC

Kelly McNamee

The person of interest here is senior basketball player Kelly McNamee. First, the stats: in 108 games with SJC she's played almost 2,500 minutes, scored close to 1,000 points, and (perhaps most importantly for a point guard) has 247 rebounds, 207 assists, and 133 steals.

So she's pretty good.

I wanted to get to know more about her basketball career and her life as a student athlete. I began by asking about the toughest challenge of playing in college. She responded with, "The hardest part about playing basketball on the college level is the time management between basketball and school. Playing at the college level is a very big commitment. These past four years I have travelled across the country playing games, and trying to fit in school work is very tough. We have practices almost every day and our schedule between games and practices can be very hectic. I have to work hard to make sure I am able to get all of my school work done on time."

After hearing that, I was curious as to how she made enough time for free time, and what she did during the time she was off court. Kelly told me, "It's tough making free time, but I just make sure I stay on top of my work. During my free time, I love being able to spend time with my friends. I also like to workout at the gym and go for runs. I've become an avid runner and I love to do it. Most importantly, I love just relaxing with my

friends and family." I then wanted to know how she kept her edge in basketball since she mentioned she went to the gym often. I asked, "How often?" to which she said, "I work out about 4 to 5 times a week. I like to run on the treadmills, do the elliptical, and ride the bicycle. I've recently also started doing some weight training."

From that, I thought it was a good time to switch gears and ask about her academic interests. "I wouldn't say my interest in athletics affects my interests in subjects," she explains. "I really enjoy English classes because I love to read. My least favorite subjects are science and math. I never was able to pick up an interest in those."

Finally, I went back to ask her about her greatest achievement. She said, "I think the greatest moment of my career was winning the conference championship with my team last year and being named the tournament MVP. Being able to beat the team we lost to the past two years in the final was a great feeling. It was a huge accomplishment for us. Being named tournament MVP was also a great feeling for me." A five-foot-two SJC All-Star both on and off the court, watching her win that MVP award must have been a great feeling for everyone who knows her.

"It's tough making free time, but I just make sure I stay on top of my work."





Robert Jurman

On the subject of suits, Mr. Jurman has a rather touching reason for sporting one around campus on most days. He told me that he dresses professionally because he is comfortable doing so. In his words, "he likes to be put together." He added that he takes representing the student body very seriously, particularly when he meets with administrators of the college or visitors. A rather fun fact, though, is that Robert was not born in a suit. Up until the end of his sophomore year in high school, he dressed "in t-shirts and had hair like another member of the Beatles."

Mr. Jurman is a fighter and a true leader. Even if his views are not the most popular, he is determined to get his goals accomplished. He notes determination as his best attribute. He told me that he does not believe in failure. According to him, "if you truly want something, you just keep on going and pick yourself up in the midst of defeat." When discussing his losses when running for class senator and Student Government Association (SGA) president, he referenced Walt Disney. "Everyone needs a good failure in their life," Jurman says, "and he had a number of them."

For the purpose of clarification: Mr. Jurman ran for class senator three times and for SGA president two times. He won twice out of all of those elections (one of those wins was because he was running unopposed). All in all, it was his "desire to truly serve the students and to truly make a difference on the campus" that kept him going.

He had to wait a while for the position, but Robert Jurman has enjoyed his time as SGA president and is quite proud of his accomplishments. In Jurman fashion, he provided me with specifics. First off he said, "with the new SGA Constitution, senators now have a true voice. There are more opportunities now for senators to make policy and statements than under any other SGA." He continued by saying that "under the new Constitution, any senator can draft any senate resolution and bring it to a vote, even if the SGA President does not agree with what's being voted on." Essentially, through the work of this SGA, the campus has made leaps in the right direction. In

fairly recent news, Jurman mentioned the campus going tobacco-free and the speed bump that will be installed on Clinton Avenue to keep students safe. Last but not least, he told me that this administration has been very open and transparent with the student body.

When asked about who within the SJC community inspired him the most, he said Ms. Catherine Muldoon, a former SGA president. While he did not and still does not agree with many of her policies, he admired how much she knew what she wanted. She "brought a true business outlook to the presidency... she knew how to present the presidency and she was an effective president." What makes Mr. Jurman even more fascinating is his ability to see past ideals and look at the person. Yes, he disagreed with some of the ideas implemented by Ms. Muldoon, but he did not let that hinder his admiration of who she was and what she was doing as SGA president. He concluded his thought by saying that her presidency inspired him to take on the challenge.

Robert Jurman is continually opening himself to the world around him. Running for SGA president taught him the importance of patience. He still struggles with being shy around women and is looking for a date to formal. He admits that he is "a little old fashioned and conservative, loves jazz music, opera and brews his own beer." But that is him, and he takes pride in who he is. He takes pride in his style and his swagger. So what if he wears a suit, and gels-then-combs his hair into a specific style? If someone does not like that he loves who he is then "that's their loss." He finds it ironic that people preach about the importance of accepting others for who they are, in spite of their beliefs and their lifestyles -- yet that does not always get reciprocated. At the end of the day, Mr. Jurman is a 21 year old man who likes sushi and hanging out with friends. He says that, yes, his initial impressions may paint him as rigid but, "there's more to me. It just takes time for some people to see that."

Kwesi Benn

The men and women who have served in the armed services aren't easily spotted at SJC. They've neatly (and according to regulations) tucked away their uniform and have replaced it with their civilian attire. St. Joseph's has a significant amount of students who have actively served in the United States military, and I had the opportunity to sit with Kwesi Benn, the president of the Veterans Club on our campus.

Kwesi will be graduating from SJC within the next semester. Originally from Guyana, Kwesi enlisted in the United States Navy at the age of twenty-two. During his six year commitment, four were spent in Norfolk, Virginia. Kwesi was an aviation maintenance administrator, accustomed to working in outdoor environments like the flight line. He was responsible for understanding and familiarizing himself with all the intricate details of his aircraft, a task that involves a significant amount of attention to detail and focus. His final two years of service he became a member of the Navy Reserves and was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. While his primary duty stations were within the United States, Kwesi has had the opportunity to travel all throughout Europe during his deployments. It was during this time and during his time served he realized the importance of interacting with different cultures.

Upon his separation from the Navy, Kwesi attended Brooklyn College. While he attended Brooklyn College, he started to discover his true passion in life, working with young adults and providing them with the tools to succeed in life. Kwesi, being a man of many talents, was offered a job causing him to leave Brooklyn College before completing his degree. In 2011, Kwesi enrolled at St.

Joseph's College. He decided to combine two of his interests, social work and information technology, by declaring a double major in Human Relations and IT. Aside from being a veteran, a college student studying two different fields, and being the head member of the Veteran's Club at SJC, Kwesi is currently interning at Brooklyn College Academy as a guidance counselor for its youth members. As if he didn't have enough on his plate, he is also a part of a non-profit organization called Veteran's Job Path. The goal of this organization is to provide veterans with the tools, resources, and support needed to succeed outside the military. Kwesi's organization has tactically formulated a plan to target veterans. "There's a transitioning veteran [who] is currently coming out of the military into the civilian world, there is a veteran that has been out for a while, there's a veteran who may want to make a career change... those are the three tiers that we want to better develop." By creating a plan and a clear objective for each veteran, Veteran's Job Path will more likely reach its goals and succeed.

I was amazed with Kwesi's goals and achievements. So I had to ask, how he is able to manage school, internships, community service, and this new non-profit? Kwesi answers with a polite smile: "Time management is a challenge...sleep is something I don't get too much of, but I'm O.K. My service didn't stop once I left the military." We salute you and all the remarkable work you are doing. Thank you for your service, Kwesi Benn.

"Time management is a challenge...sleep is something I don't get too much of, but I'm O.K. My service didn't stop once I left the military."





Franky Rodriguez

Franky Rodriguez is a sophomore here at SJC who majors in Math and Computer Information Technology. He is from Miami, Florida and had never been to New York City prior to coming to St. Joe's. "Miami is just flat," Franky says when commenting on the differences between Miami and NYC. "If you dig ten feet you'll just find water. I was really caught off guard by the subway. It was weird seeing stairs going underground. At the time, I had only seen it in movies."

Franky found SJC through a college fair at his school. "There was a college fair, and my counselor suggested Keith Outlaw and he recruited me." When asked why he chose to be a Math major, Franky replies with a smile, "I've always liked math. I've always been fascinated with how a problem is solved and answered. I also enjoy how math is the same in different cultures. Writing is different in every country, ya know? Math is more universal."

When he's not in school, Franky enjoys playing music. "I play violin and piano. Mostly classical on the piano and violin, but with the Music Performance Club I've been learning a lot of pop and jazz and it's really fun. It's a nice break from classical. But in my free time, I like

to play music or write music. I like to play racquetball a lot. I go to work, too."

Picking a favorite musician, or a musician he tries to emulate, was nearly impossible, due mainly to the fact that, "There's too many. It's not like I wanna be one person, but I would like to be compared to them. A lot of them have their own unique qualities. I don't want to imitate one person, but would like to emulate them somewhat with my music."

Franky recently mixed his love for music with his passion for math and computer information. "I wrote this program in Java, that you can play a melody at any speed or in any key and it'll identify it. It was a part of the research symposium, and I actually got a grant for it." And in case you were wondering, the one superpower Franky would like to have is super speed. "Super speed, like the Flash. Because you can do anything you want as fast you can and you would never run out of time."

Or music.

"I've always been fascinated with how a problem is solved and answered... Writing is different in every country, ya know? Math is more universal."

John Savarese

During our “interview,” which seems too formal a word for it, we were seated in the parlors of Tuohy Hall. Almost every single person who walked by us recognized John and was greeted by his upbeat, “Hello, how are you?” When in a conversation with John, there is a feeling of comfort and familiarity, like he has previously hung out with you dozens of times. Even just passing him on campus seems like an invitation to strike up a conversation and almost everyone already has. Perhaps the reason why almost everyone who has spent a day on campus knows who John is, is because of the way he treats other people. It’s a pattern that he has observed, of course, as a Math major that bringing the attention back to the other person, and not himself, creates for a more positive interaction.

Greeting hundreds of customers a day when he worked at the American Museum of Natural History, he learned how to respond to strangers. By asking his students what it is that they did not understand, he learned to have them create an answer. When audience members approach him after a performance for congratulations, he thanks them and hopes they enjoyed the show. He has learned to “always bring it back to them.” The biggest reason that John does what he does and accomplishes what he accomplishes is because he just really wants people to enjoy themselves.

At the Leadership Luncheon on April 28th, the award for Leadership in the Arts was being given and the presenter, Stacey Temple, made the audience guess who would receive the award as she listed the myriad of performing arts clubs this student has been in. Almost every person at my table and the one next to mine, whispered to each other, “It’s John Savarese. Who else could it be?” To no surprise, it was.

John wants you to know that everything that he has done and has ever achieved was not done just by him alone. His extremely self-effacing demeanor, despite playing the lead role in Chapel Players’ *RENT* or playing and singing in a show for the Music Performance Club, leads you to believe that his humble attitude is just him being truly honest. When describing the irony of his Leadership in the Arts award, he redirects the attention to his friends and castmates: “Even though I got the Leadership in the Arts award, I would like to think that it’s not because I’m the leader. Rather, that I help people see in themselves what I see in them. When I look at the award in that context, it

makes more sense to me.”

It almost seems too mature to think that a college student would deflect so much positive attention from himself, but it has only been beneficial on John’s part. How exactly did John turn out this way? Maybe it was in the 7th grade when the principal complimented his written work due to a certain style that was so unique to John. Perhaps it was right after his audition in his sophomore year for the Chapel Players’ production of *Gypsy*, which was the first time he had ever sung in front of an audience. It was after this nervous audition that his friend Gianna Fralonardo encouraged him to continue singing. From this moment, he realized that encouragement was the only thing he needed to eventually become someone who is comfortable singing and playing the piano for a large audience. “Once you tell people that they’re good at things, it’s sort of a self fulfilling prophecy that they think, ‘Maybe I can do this.’”

As a skilled performer, it’s also no surprise that John would want to go into teaching. As he says, “If you can’t perform, then you can’t teach.” After completing his classes in mathematics his junior year, his senior year has been completely focused on student teaching, which has become his passion. When talking about his experience teaching, he makes clear he enjoys being able to encourage young students to become “performers” of their own. His four years in college have been some of the most fulfilling and creative years of his life so far, which he is so proud to have discovered. He attributes most of his success to the encouragement that he has received from friends and teachers. That is what he wants to teach to his peers and students. He says, “I just hope that people come away from interactions with me thinking that they like themselves more.”

Behind all the performances he has given and awards he has received, there is also an important message that John wants to spread. “I see so many people disappointed in themselves because they’re always shooting for the moon, and they’re doing exactly what they’re told to do, landing among the stars. So why don’t you just shoot for the stars and be the best star you can be? Do what you want to do and do it as best as you can.” As someone who has known who John is for my entire time at college, there is no doubt he has been one of the biggest stars at SJC.





Sabrina Cornia

If ever there was a person who knew how to be in two places at once, it's Sabrina Cornia. Currently a senior and a secondary education major, Sabrina has been involved in so many activities at St. Joe's (simultaneously) that I'm almost convinced she has a clone. Classes, student teaching, Chapel Players' hell week, and volleyball playoffs all at the same time may seem like a death sentence to some, but Sabrina took it as a challenge.

Take this year, for example: Sabrina not only managed to grab a lead role in the CP production of *RENT* (one lead of several she's had over the years, actually) but she went all the way with Women's Volleyball to the championships. She is also a sister in Alpha Gamma Delta (AGD), and an off-campus housing RA. She somehow still finds the time to eat healthy and to sit down and enjoy a good cup of tea every so often. With time management being such an issue for majority of college students, it's hard not to tip our hats to her.

Her busy lifestyle is not based off whims or attempts to look good on paper for graduate schools – it is based off the fact that everything she is involved in is something she genuinely loves. She says, "I think my busy lifestyle and passion for everything I do is what makes me interesting. I'm always doing multiple tasks at once and truly enjoying them wholeheartedly," and it shows. She shines on the stage as a performer, and is just as much of a star on the volleyball court.

Senior year student teaching has provided her with the opportunity to develop a connection with her students and to implement everything she has learned over the years in a classroom setting. Students always flourish when their teacher is passionate about the subject material – and for Sabrina the subject is more of a lifestyle. She teaches Spanish,

but was raised in an Italian household – providing her with the opportunity to be trilingual and the ability to make some out-of-this-world homemade ravioli.

Somehow, with all of this going on, Sabrina also manages to find time for what is also of utmost importance to her– family and friends. She is the type of friend who will bring you homemade chicken noodle soup when you're sick, and buy you a present that is ridiculous yet perfectly suited to your personality for no specific occasion. Sabrina is the "motherly" one in her group of friends in that she is always available to listen and give heartfelt advice – no matter what else she has going on.

Sabrina's loved ones have been a source of inspiration for her throughout her academic and personal achievements – especially her father. When he lost his battle to cancer her junior year, Sabrina said she felt she had no other option but to stay in school and stay strong – which is much easier said than done. She still continued school without hesitation and feels that her father inspires her to be a better person and to procrastinate less and to work more. Through his life, and even after his death, he inspires her to love each and every aspect of her life – as she has realized that life can be taken away in an instant.

Sabrina lives each day with a simple motto in mind, "volere è potere" – meaning, "where there's a will, there's a way." In ten years, she hopes to see herself teaching, settled down, and graduated from a master's program, possibly even achieving higher academic milestones. There's not a doubt in my mind that's exactly what she'll be doing – probably with twenty other things on her plate as well.

"I'm always doing multiple tasks at once and truly enjoying them wholeheartedly."

Javier Bosque

Javier Bosque isn't your average senior. He's been a part of an Honor Society, Cross-Country, Tennis, Volleyball, Choral Society, Dance Club, Chapel Players, Science Club, and many other college organizations. Aside from that, he has served on the Student Government Association as parliamentarian, and he's currently the off-campus coordinator and program director for the Campus Activities Board. However, if things had worked out differently for Javier during his freshman year, none of this would've ever happened.

While training with the cross-country team in Fort Greene Park, Javier suffered cardiac arrest. A woman named Autumn was walking her dog at the time and began performing CPR. She continued until the paramedics came. They rushed him to Long Island College Hospital, instead of Brooklyn Hospital, because LIC Hospital had a new unique treatment for dealing with patients like Javier.

When Javier arrived to the hospital, doctors put him in a medically induced coma where they lowered his body temperature enough so that his brain still had blood flow. Doctors said that the best-case scenario would be that if he woke from this, he would be a 'vegetable.' After three days, they attempted to wake him up and were surprised to see that he was beginning to move and speak. They began to ask him questions to see if he had any memory loss, but it seemed like everything was normal. However, he wasn't able to retain any new information. Doctors feared he would have permanent short-term memory loss.

Luckily, again, he began to retain his memory to the point where he was correcting doctors of the actual times when they visited him. All of this was leading towards a smooth recovery, until he developed a blood clot in his leg (from an operation of a catheter to his heart). The blood clot had managed to split and travel to his lungs. Parts from both of his lungs died. He was in excruciating pain, coughing up blood for days. Luckily he had the support of all his family and friends who were constantly by his bedside. He recovered and in about a month's time was able to go home. They gave him an apparatus to do some breathing exercises to get his lungs back into their old shape, and said he would be doing it for at least three months. But again, he quickly recovered and was performing the exercises perfectly. By this time, he had missed much of the semester, and was lucky enough that the school allowed him to start again in January with his scholarship. He

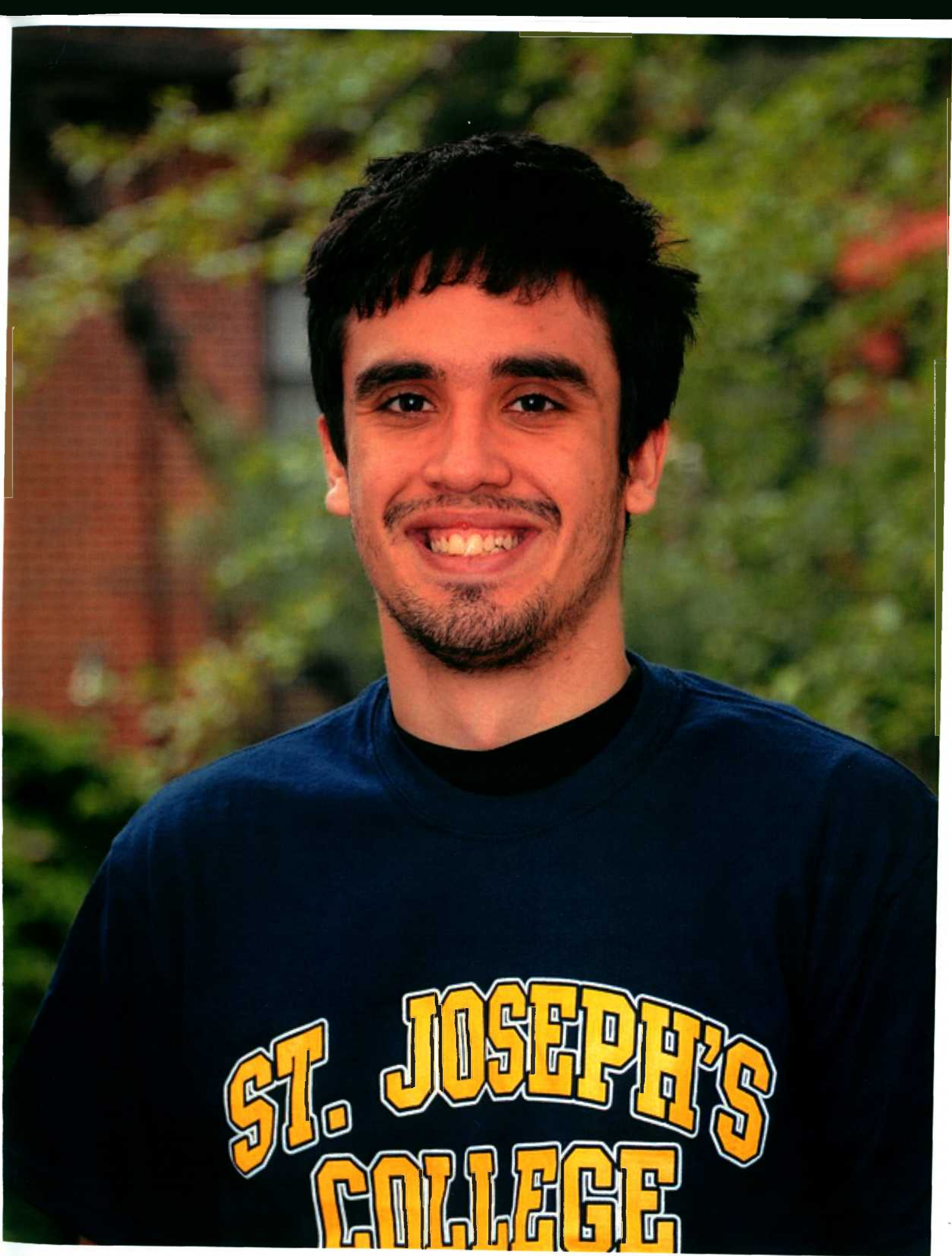
still missed all of his friends and classes so he started to return to school. First he came to hang out, then to attend some of his old classes. Javier was back to his old self. I asked Javier what his best college memory was. In response, he said, "This is hard. I know that whatever I pick, I will probably be forgetting a better one. It could be going to Paris with my friends in the Honor Society, or putting on a production with my friends for Chapel Players, or passing a really difficult class. I can't pick just one. I literally have had the time of my life, these past four or five years. Collectively, I know, they will be the best memories of my life."

I also asked him what his biggest fear was. "Although you might expect my biggest fear to be death, since I was so close to it before, my biggest fear is actually not being successful. I just want to make sure that all this hard work that I am putting in now will be for something and that the career I end up having has to do something with animals, all while making enough to support my family."

At the Leadership Lunch on April 28th, Javier received many awards, but the biggest was the "Leadership Through Inspiration" award and it was there he received the greatest piece of advice from keynote speaker Steve Sommers. "He told the most heartwarming story accompanied with great advice. That was to never walk blindly in life. Open your eyes. Do everything with purpose and passion, and you will achieve success."

Javier also has some advice for SJC undergrads! "GET INVOLVED. I can't stress this enough. I tell this to every single undergrad every year, especially at orientation. I would not be the man I am today if it wasn't for all the clubs and activities I was a part of. Some of my greatest memories have come from traveling with the sports team, or acting with Chapel Players, or traveling to Paris with the Honors Program. So, please, you don't have to do everything I did, but get involved in something. I know from personal experience that those who I told to become more involved have come back and thanked me for telling them to do so. Their experience was so much better."

After graduation, Javier plans on attending Hunter College to earn his master's in Animal Behavior and Conservation. He also hopes to continue his internship at the Staten Island Zoo, along with finding a job related to animals.



ST. JOSEPH'S
COLLEGE



Jennifer Miller

On our list is Jennifer Miller. She is a member of Beta Upsilon Delta (BUD), she's one of our prized athletes, and a mom!

So, we talked about a few things.

I told her what we were doing, and asked her why she thought we picked her, and her response was that she assumed it was because she's a mother as well as a student athlete "which not many people can say they can accomplish aptly, and without completely and totally losing it," she joked. I think it would be difficult to find someone to disagree with this. It is no small feat to accomplish, and she concurs that it's definitely not for everyone.

She says that there are times when being a mom can be difficult while being a student athlete—playing basketball at the college level, joining BUD, spending as much time as possible with her son, fracturing her ankle, and trying to work somewhere in between, but she says that she "wouldn't change anything about my life because I absolutely love it!"

You may know the sororities by acronym, but not everyone knows what the sororities do, and what they stand for. BUD's causes are lupus and autism awareness. Their most recent events were the Pinwheel Campaign, the Breast Cancer Walk, and the Autism Speaks Fundraiser/Walk.

Jennifer's long-term plans for after graduating and getting her master's degree is to become an elementary school teacher. In addition to that, she thinks that eventually she would like to do something in the field of counseling, "because I really love to help people one on one at a more personal level than can be achieved by teaching."

Another significant part of Jennifer's life is her love for basketball, which had flourished from an extremely young age, encouraged by her father, and she officially started playing on a team at the age of six. When I asked her why she was drawn to the sport, she said it was because of "how enthralling it is" for her. Additionally, she says that it is like an outlet, or an escape—something that grounds her when she's having a bad day. Even so, she firmly believes that God doesn't throw obstacles your way unless He knows you're strong enough to overcome them.

Jennifer became a mom at the age eighteen in her freshman year of college, and considers her son, Matthew, to be her motivation, and her driving force. She has a very strong bond with her son, and says that "My relationship with my son is so special and close to my heart. I never could have imagined one little smile could make me so unbelievably happy. Matthew is truly my rock and center. Whenever I have had a horrible day or week, and just feel like breaking down, all I have to do is just look at my son and know that because he is happy and healthy that I must be doing something right!"

As for Matthew's father, Steven, he and Jennifer met when she was fourteen, and they became close friends before finally they decided that they "wanted to be a family, and spend our lives growing old together." She described her relationship with Steven as "any other typical relationship; of course we had our ups and downs, but at the end of the day we both love each other very much, which will never change." She concedes, though, that her son, Matthew, was introduced into their world a little earlier than they had originally planned. "I honestly never thought that I would be a mom starting at the age of eighteen," she says, "but I strongly believe that everything happens for a reason!" She also believes that being a mother has made her a much stronger and wiser woman in general.

Unfortunately, however, Steven has passed on.

Regardless, she still maintains a close relationship with his family, in particular his sister and brother. She says that her bond with her in-laws is very important to her, and that they are "like my own blood." Also crucial is her son's relationship with them. "It's extremely vital that my son knows both sides of his family, and that the memory of his father is never forgotten," she says.

Jennifer says that the college, and everyone in it, has been tremendously supportive and understanding of her family life—which is not always the case. She says that her college experience has been amazing, and that she's glad to be attending St. Joseph's College, where she has met some "truly amazing people, and learned many life lessons."

David Louison

Nay, David Louison is not the most interesting student because his face has been plastered all over the city of New York. Nay, David Louison is not the most interesting student because he is arguably the best basketball player on the St. Joseph's Bears., nor is he the most interesting student because he has straight A's. David is the most interesting student because he is so absolutely different than everyone else.

What makes David the most interesting are the roots that held him down and raised him up. He credits his hard work and diligence to the traits that both of his parents have instilled in him. His father spent the first two decades of his life in Grenada. As the son of a single mother, David's dad grew up so poor that he didn't even have his first pair of sneakers until he was well into his teenage years. Despite dropping out of school after the 8th grade, David's father flourished tremendously when he came to America and quickly got into the music scene to become one of the biggest DJ's in the Flatbush area. At a young age, he met David's mom and from that point on, the two have raised their family of 6 to be the best that they can be. His mother was recently honored by the Daily News for her incredible work as a teacher and mentor, by helping a child with special needs succeed at Hudde Junior High.

David currently works for the US Attorney's office in the Southern District of New York, on the civil side. He is primarily responsible for inputting cases into the system and handing them to their assigned attorney. The most exciting case that he ever had the opportunity to work on was US v. Bank of America, where the United States federal government was suing the bank for over a billion dollars in illegal mortgage approvals and ultimate foreclosures. As David explains it, this experience was one of those "all hands on deck" periods where his job was "to do fact checking that was similar to looking for a needle in a hay stack."

David has helped lead the St. Joseph's basketball team to a number of different wins. Playing as

a forward, he has always been a top ranked athlete, even during his younger years. While playing at St. Edmund Prep, he went straight on to their varsity team and was ranked by MSG varsity as 44th out of 100 of the top high school basketball players. David told me that although he loves basketball, it is "the brotherhood and connections that come with being on a team" that really keeps him going. Despite his talent and love for the support, David hates being defined by one thing. He plays basketball but does not want to be labeled as an athlete or basketball star. To him, "ball" is recreational—it is not something that he wants to pursue in the long term.

As David explains, he is passionate about very unconventional things for most college students: reading, caring for the homeless, and the many issues that black youths face. "It kills me," he says. "Growing up in Flatbush I saw a lot of my equals choose different paths than I did, and it just kills me to see." He goes on: "Being black defines you. It is who I am and how other people view me." He structures his life around his ethnicity and the stereotypes that accompany it. One of his biggest goals in life is ensuring that he never becomes a statistic.

Wait, there's more: David has a thirst for learning and humor, but he does not drink because his uncle died of cirrhosis of the liver. His favorite music comes from the 60's-80's, and includes artists like Otis Redding, the Temptations, and Michael Jackson. His favorite color is purple being that he is named after King David in the Bible and it is the color of royalty. Malcolm Gladwell is his favorite author, and not surprisingly he is a fan of the Nets, Yankees, and Giants. These are just some of the reasons why he is the one of the most interesting students at St. Joseph's College.





Kristina Hernandez

Born and raised in the Lone Star State of Texas, Kristina Hernandez made her move to the Big Apple just two years ago. She is currently a rising Junior at St. Joseph's College, majoring in both Sociology and Criminal Justice and kicking butt on the side. She is a member of the Honors Program, a part of the Orientation Team, Student Leadership Experience (SLE), Poder Latino, Student Ambassadors, Alpha Gamma Delta, The National Society of Leadership and Success, and Social Thinkers. Yeah, she does everything.

Growing up in Wichita Falls, Texas, Kristina always had an incredible bond with her family. She has two younger brothers, Ernest (18) and Jason (17), two of the most loving and sweet Pit Bulls, Jay and Cane, and a mother that she sees the world in who managed to raise three children while attending school for two master's degrees. "Even with all of that, she still made time to cook, and have dinner as a family every night", Kristina says. "My mother is a superwoman and I wouldn't be who I am without her."

Graduating from Wichita Falls High School in June of 2012, Kristina said goodbye to her amazing years and experiences on the school's drill team (the Lonestars), the Science club, the debate team, and the academic success project--all while being a powerlifter and a soccer player. Her car's name is Rylan. He is a 2002 GMC Envoy and has been with Kristina through thick and thin. Despite her first job being at American Eagle, she has long been a volunteer at her church and their

local Faith Mission.

She chose to come to St. Joseph's College because she always dreamt of living in New York City. She craved the new experiences and diverse people that this city has to offer. Since she has been in Brooklyn, she has really excelled as a college student. Last year she started the Social Thinkers Club after taking a Social Problem Sociology course with Dr. Mirella Landriscina. The purpose of the club is to bring awareness to SJC students about what is going on in society such as the issues with media consolidation, the economic gap in society between the top 1% and the bottom 99%, the wage gap between men and women, and so on.

When Kristina graduates she is planning on joining the Peace Corps and traveling the world. Do not fret, though; if her plans fall through she is prepared to apply to graduate school at Baylor University in Waco, Texas and continue to change the world, one step at a time.

"My mother is a superwoman and I wouldn't be who I am without her."

Joe Mendez

VS



What distinguishes two St. Joseph's students with the same name? Everything! Although their names are the same, Joseph Mendez and Joseph Mendez are horses of very different colors. "I first found out there was another Joe Mendez when I went I was a freshman because admissions thought I was already enrolled in classes. I had called trying to figure out how to take a placement test that they required from us and apparently I had already taken it. The only problem was I hadn't taken any test." Luckily, Joe finally took the placement test and has been doing well ever since. He is a Math major on the secondary education track set to graduate this May.

Along with maintaining a strong GPA, Joe also has been an active member of the cross country team for all four years of college and has performed on stage for the Chapel Players and the Music Performance Club. "I have always loved musicals but I never did anything about it. I've always loved *RENT* and decided I'd give it a try. The cast had heard me sing somewhere else and peer pressured me into (auditioning) and it was a great experience. I learned a lot more about myself because of it. I

always knew I could sing and whatnot but I never knew I could take it to the level that I was able to during that show." Joe's outstanding resume here at St. Joe's has allowed him to prepare well for his future. "After St. Joe's, I plan on becoming a high school math teacher and probably a lot of other things that I haven't figured out yet. I would love to get into coaching some sport just because I love them all and it might be cool to do something in the music field."

Joe Mendez

As the warmer weather steadily approaches, graduation draws near, and Joe Mendez, in his (occasionally obnoxious) glory, will be graduating this semester with a Bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation. Over these past four years Joe has spent at St. Joseph's College, he has recognized and admired the fact that he is not only a loud person, but that he has been capable of channeling this behavior into a four year baseball career and a steady internship at Staten Island University Hospital.

This "obnoxious" stereotype has clung to him over the years and he is known (and heard) by most of the student body. "I'm loud. People always know when I'm coming."

Yes. Yes, they do. And perhaps this is a good thing. As Joe takes off into the real world, he is determined to use his talents and presence to assist patients on advancing their functional skills. "We use people's leisure interests," he explains about his internship, and those leisure interests are channelled into patient therapies, which are oftentimes difficult and, frankly, are best led by someone with Joe's extroverted personality. And congrats to Joe, he already has a job lined up. "They offered me a job at the hospital where I interned on Staten Island, right after I graduate." Loud and proud, Joe is here to stay, so get used to him.



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